

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 199564

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, EC

SUBJECT: ECUADOREAN ELECTORAL PROCESS

REFS: (A) QUITO 5086; (B) QUITO 3090:
(C) STATE 114311; (D) STATE 192120 (E) QUITO 3475

1. AS STATED IN REFTEL C AND D THE ADMINISTRATION
SUPPORTS ECUADOR'S RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTIONAL
RULE AND WANTS THE PROCESS TO BE FAIR AND YOU SHOULD RE-
AFFIRM THIS TO ROLDOS.

2. REGARDING ROLDOS' DESIRE TO VISIT THE US IN AUGUST,
THE DEPARTMENT FEELS SUCH A VISIT WOULD NOT BE
APPROPRIATE, EITHER FOR ROLDOS OR FOR US, SINCE WE
WOULD APPEAR TO BE FAVORING HIM IN THE RUN-OFF. OUR
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POLICY ON ELECTIONS IS TO ENCOURAGE FREE ELECTIONS BUT
TO BE NEUTRAL WITH RESPECT TO POLITICAL PARTIES AND
CANDIDATES. AN INFORMAL VISIT AFTER THE ELECTIONS AS
PRESIDENT-ELECT SHOULD ALSO BE DISCOURAGED ON OTHER
GROUNDS. IF ROLDOS VISITS WASHINGTON AS EITHER
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE OR PRESIDENT-ELECT, HIGH-LEVEL
MEETINGS USUALLY RESERVED FOR HEADS OF STATE WOULD BE

DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE AND COULD RESULT IN DISAPPOINTMENT
FOR ROLDOS.

3. IN YOUR NEXT CONVERSATION, YOU SHOULD POINT OUT TO
ROLDOS THE GREAT INTEREST WITH WHICH WE VIEW THE ELECTORAL
DEVELOPMENTS IN ECUADOR, A CONCERN IN WHICH THE
PRESIDENT TAKES A SPECIAL INTEREST. YOU MAY ALSO WANT
TO POINT OUT TO ROLDOS THAT THE REAL SUCCESS OF THE
ECUADOREAN ELECTIONS IS NOT IN THE U.S. HANDS, BUT IN
ECUADOR'S HANDS, AND MAJOR POLITICAL CANDIDATES, LIKE
ROLDOS, COULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN STABILIZING
WHAT MAY BE A DIFFICULT TRANSITION PERIOD BY TRYING
TO REASSURE THE CONSERVATIVE ELEMENTS IN ECUADOR AS
WELL AS SOME OF THE MILITARY.

4. FYI. ALTHOUGH IT IS POSSIBLE THAT WE COULD CONSIDER
EXTENDING HIM AN INVITATION FOR A STATE VISIT TO THE
UNITED STATES IF ECUADOR WERE TO SUCCESSFULLY RETURN
TO DEMOCRATIC RULE AND HE WERE ELECTED, WE DO NOT WANT
TO SUGGEST THIS TO HIM OR TO MAKE ANY COMMITMENT.
YOU SHOULD BE FRANK IN MAKING CLEAR TO HIM THAT NO COM-
MITMENT FOR A STATE VISIT CAN BE MADE AT THIS TIME,
THAT THERE HAVE BEEN OCCASIONS IN THE PAST WHEN
SUCH COMMITMENTS WERE MADE OR EXPECTATIONS WERE RAISED,
AND THEN IT BECAME IMPOSSIBLE FOR ONE REASON OR
ANOTHER TO EXTEND THE INVITATION. PLEASE, THEREFORE,
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BE EXTREMELY DISCREET AND CAREFUL NOT TO RAISE HIS
EXPECTATIONS. END FYI

5. RE ROLDOS QUERY REFTEL (E), WE WILL CONSIDER
WHAT WE MIGHT APPROPRIATELY DO, BUT HE SHOULD
PURSUE THROUGH HIS CHANNELS THE QUESTION OF WHETHER
HE MIGHT BE INVITED TO GUZMAN'S INAUGURATION IN
THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. CHRISTOPHER

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